

REMARKS

This amendment is offered in response to the Office Action of June 20, 2003.

The Office Action of June 20, 2003 rejects Claims 13 – 22 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by *Okada et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,549,722). The Office Action states that Claims 1 – 12 are allowable over the prior art of record.

Applicants have added Claims 23 and 24 herein. Therefore, Claims 13 – 24 are now being examined in view of the prior art.

In order to clarify the difference between the present application and *Okada et al.*, Applicants have amended Claims 13, 17, 18, and 22. It is respectfully submitted that these amendments distinguish over the prior art.

Independent Claim 13

Claim 13 has been amended to clarify that the second images are reproduced in synchronization with the first images. Support can be found in the description of page 24; lines 5 to 10, page 27; lines 9 to 14, and page 41; lines 2 to 14 of the specification, as originally filed.

On the contrary, *Okada et al.* does not disclose, teach, or suggest any methods of reproducing first images and second images simultaneously. In *Okada et al.*, only one of the available scenes can be selected. See the description of column 32; lines 43 to 49 of the specification.

In addition, in Claim 13, the first image data and the second image data are divided into a plurality of data units each having an equal time length and an equal data size.

Although *Okada et al.* discloses “splitting scene-specific data into plural units of a specified data size”, *Okada et al.* does not disclose, teach, or suggest that the specified data size is equal. See the description of column 35; lines 20 to 28 of the specification. In order to

perform the seamless playback, *Okada et al.* discloses that the playback start and end times of the plurality of VOB are aligned during interleaving. See the description of column 35; lines 41 to 44 of the specification.

Therefore, Claim 13 is quite different from *Okada et al.*, and Claim 13 is believed to be allowable.

Independent Claim 18

Applicants believe that independent Claim 18 would be allowable under the same reason as mentioned above.

Dependent Claims 17 and 22

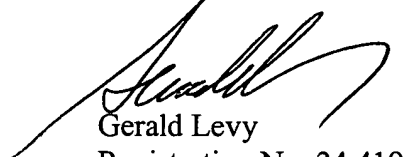
In order to clarify the definition of synchronization data, Applicants have amended Claims 17 and 22 to recite that the synchronization data is added “for synchronizing the first images with the second images”. Support can be found in the description of page 38; lines 11 to 26 of the specification, as originally filed.

New Claims 23 and 24

Applicants have added Claims 23 and 24. Support can be found in the description of page 26; lines 6 to 21 of the specification, as originally filed.

For all of the reasons above, it is respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are in immediate condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejections of the claims, to allow the claims, and to pass this application to early issue.

Respectfully submitted,



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